

Minnesota's Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

Recognizing the important benefits of wetlands, The Minnesota Legislature in 1991, enacted the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), which aims for no net loss of wetlands.

The law **regulates all draining and filling of wetlands** and if wetland loss is unavoidable, requires a replacement.

The law is one of the most comprehensive state wetland protection laws and has been used a model for other states.

Understanding that local officials may have a better idea of local needs and attitudes, the WCA gives that administration authority for the act to local governments.

- Lyon County, the County has appointed the Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District to administrate the law.
- The Cities with the County have also designated the SWCD as the administrator of the law within the City limits.

The law requires that an applicant thoroughly consider all possible alternatives to disturbing a wetland. To ensure that this is done, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have followed the step of Avoid, Minimize and as the last alternative Replace the wetland.

Before you begin your projects, contact the Soil & Water Conservation District to assist you in determining if it may affect a wetland.

REMEMBER:

Wetlands may be dry for the majority of the year and still be classified a wetland! They can support trees and can be located in cities as well as farm land.

